

THE FOLLOWING IS A LISTING OF THE CURRENTLY PENDING CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) Apparatus for freeing a seized valve having an elongate valve actuating stem projecting out of the valve, comprising:

means for enabling the repeated application of an impact force to the valve actuating stem alternately in opposite directions along its longitudinal axis[.];

gripping means for gripping and engaging with a projecting portion of the valve actuating stem, wherein the gripping means comprises a plurality of jaws and the gripping means is arranged to grip and engage a projecting portion of the valve actuating stem when an impact force is applied in a first direction to allow an impact force to be applied by the gripping means to the projecting portion of the valve actuating stem in the opposite direction; and

a base portion to which the impact force is applied and wherein the gripping means is movable with respect to the base portion in the direction of application of the impact force, the base portion urging the gripping means into engagement with the projecting valve actuating stem upon application of the impact force.

2 – 4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim [[4]]], wherein the jaws comprise means for enhancing the engagement of the jaws with the projecting portion of the valve actuating stem.

6. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the means for enhancing engagement of the jaws comprises a plurality of teeth members.

7. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the teeth members are elongate.
8. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the elongate teeth members are aligned substantially perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the valve actuating stem.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim [[9]]1, comprising camming surfaces on the base portion and on the gripping means for urging the gripping means into engagement with the projecting valve actuating stem upon relative movement of the base portion and the gripping means.
11. (Once amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the base portion urges the gripping means into engagement with the projecting valve actuating stem upon application of an impact force in one direction.
12. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the base portion urges the gripping means into engagement with the projecting valve actuating stem upon application of an impact force towards the stem.
13. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the base portion comprises a shank to which the impact force is applied and the gripping means comprises a collar which is slidably disposed on the shank and opposed jaws for engaging opposite sides of a projecting valve actuating stem, the base portion and the opposed jaws comprising camming surfaces for urging the jaws in a gripping direction.
14. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the base portion urges the gripping means into engagement with the projecting valve actuating stem upon

application of an impact force away from the stem.

15. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the impact force is applied to the base portion and the gripping means comprises opposed jaws for engaging opposite sides of a projecting valve actuating stem, the base portion and the opposed jaws comprising camming surfaces for urging the jaws in a gripping direction.

16 –27 (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) Apparatus for freeing a seized valve having an elongate valve actuating stem projecting out of the valve, the apparatus comprising:

a force transmitting member adapted to join with both an exposed end portion of said valve actuating stem and an external impact producing device such that the external impact producing device can transmit a force through the force transmitting member, which force is transmitted substantially along the longitudinal axis said valve actuating stem; [[and]]

a plurality of jaws for gripping and engaging with a projecting portion of the valve actuating stem, wherein the plurality of jaws are arranged to grip and engage the projecting portion of the valve actuating stem when the impact force is applied in a first direction to allow a force to be applied by the plurality of jaws to the projecting portion of the valve actuating stem in the opposite direction[[.]]; and

a base portion to which the impact force is applied and wherein the plurality of jaws are movable with respect to the base portion in the direction of application of the impact force, the base portion urging the plurality of jaws into engagement with the projecting valve actuating stem upon application of the impact force.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Once amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the plurality of jaws comprises a plurality of teeth members that enhance the engagement of the jaws with the projecting portion of the valve actuating stem.

31. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the teeth members are elongate.

32. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein the elongate teeth members are aligned substantially perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the valve actuating stem.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 28 [33], comprising camming surfaces on the base portion and on the plurality of jaws for urging the plurality of jaws into engagement with the projecting valve actuating stem upon relative movement of the base portion and the plurality of jaws.

35. (Once amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the base portion urges the plurality of jaws into engagement with the projecting valve actuating stem upon application of an impact force in one direction.

36. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein the base portion urges the plurality of jaws into engagement with the projecting valve actuating stem upon application of an impact force towards the stem.

37. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the base portion comprises a shank to which the impact force is applied and the plurality of jaws comprise

a collar, which are slidably disposed on the shank and opposed jaws for engaging opposite sides of a projecting valve actuating stem, the base portion and the opposed jaws comprising camming surfaces for urging the plurality of jaws in a gripping direction.

38. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein the base portion urges the plurality of jaws into engagement with the projecting valve actuating stem upon application of an impact force away from the stem.

39. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the impact force is applied to the base portion and the plurality of jaws comprise opposed jaws for engaging opposite sides of a projecting valve actuating stem, the base portion and the opposed jaws comprising camming surfaces for urging the plurality of jaws in a gripping direction.

40 – 57 (Canceled)